

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1062

436 E. Pennsylvania Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

1870-1885

Private

The dwelling at 436 East Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed between 1870 and 1885 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

This dwelling is sited on a level grassy lot surrounded with trees and shrubs. The wood frame dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height and is three bays wide with a central entrance. It sits on a solid poured concrete foundation and is re-clad with asbestos shingles. Two center-interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps rise above the side gable roof. A one-story shed-roof porch, supported with square posts, cover the three bays on the façade. The entry uses a single-leaf wood glass (four light) and panel door. There is one 2/2 double-hung wood sash window on the façade and one 6/6 double-hung wood sash window on the side elevation. The upper half story uses a four-light fixed window in the side gable. The remaining are 1/1 double-hung aluminum sash replacement windows. Half of the aluminum encased cornice returns in the side gable. A two-story shed roof addition is located on the rear elevation. It is wood frame construction with an interior brick chimney and a side entrance. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1062

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 436 E. Pennsylvania Avenue

not for publication

city, town Baltimore

vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John F. Etzel, George E. Etzel

street and number 1108 Valewood Road

telephone Not Available

city, town Towson

state MD

zip code 21286

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

liber 10275 folio 713

city, town Towson

tax map 70

tax parcel 746

tax ID number 916602680

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1062

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This dwelling is sited on a level grassy lot surrounded with trees and shrubs. The wood frame dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height and is three bays wide with a central entrance. It sits on a solid poured concrete foundation and is re-clad with asbestos shingles. Two center-interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps rise above the side gable roof. A one-story shed-roof porch, supported with square posts, cover the three bays on the façade. The entry uses a single-leaf wood glass (four light) and panel door. There is one 2/2 double-hung wood sash window on the façade and one 6/6 double-hung wood sash window on the side elevation. The upper half story uses a four-light fixed window in the side gable. The remaining are 1/1 double-hung aluminum sash replacement windows. Half of the aluminum encased cornice returns in the side gable. A two-story shed roof addition is located on the rear elevation. It is wood frame construction with an interior brick chimney and a side entrance. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1062

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	1870-1885	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1870-1885		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house at 436 E. Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed between 1870 and 1885 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1062

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .60 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling is located at 436 East Pennsylvania Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70, Parcel 746 since its construction between 1870 and 1885.

11. Form Prepared by

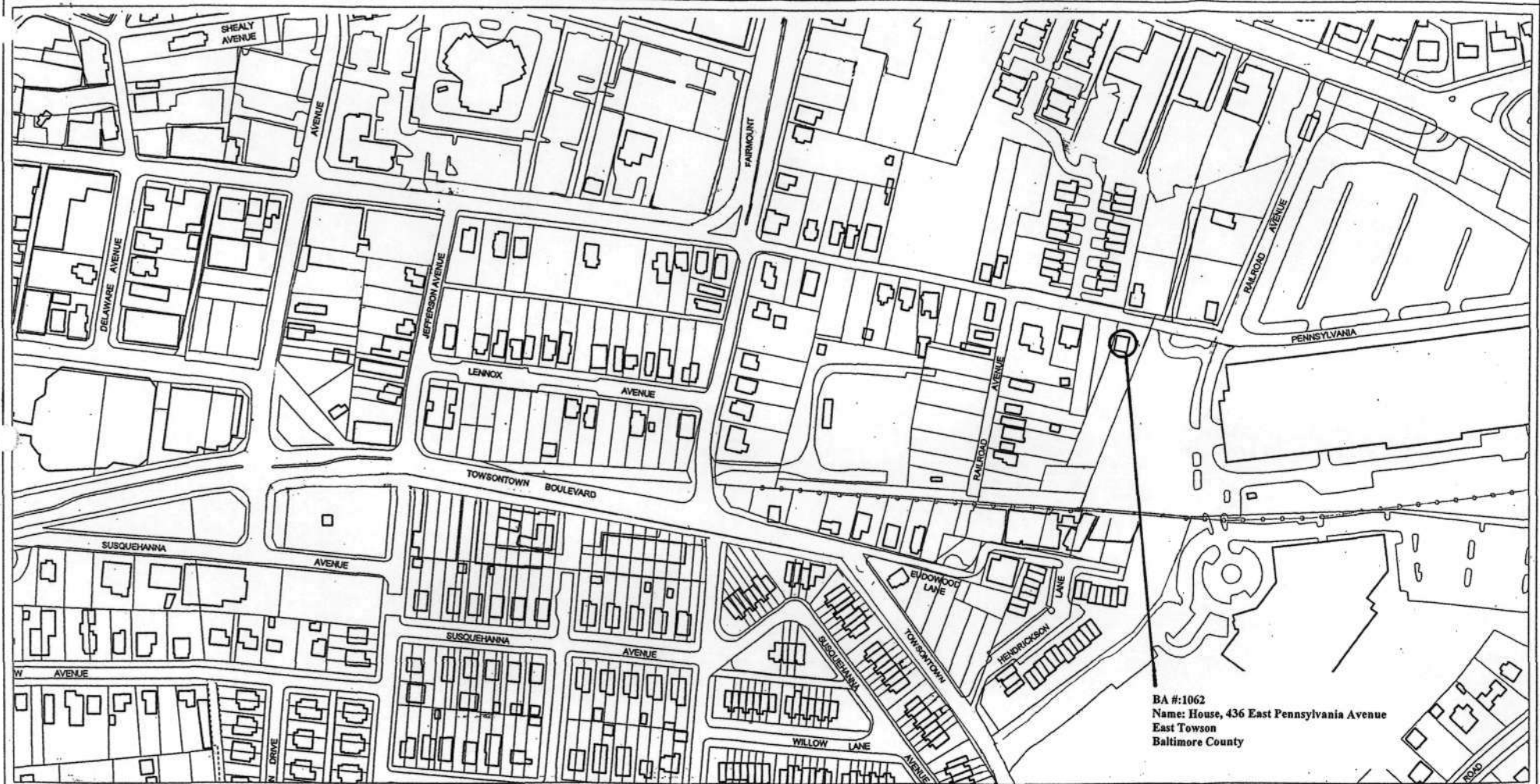
name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	November 28, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001



Scale

1 inch = 200 feet

1:2400

100 0 100 200 Feet

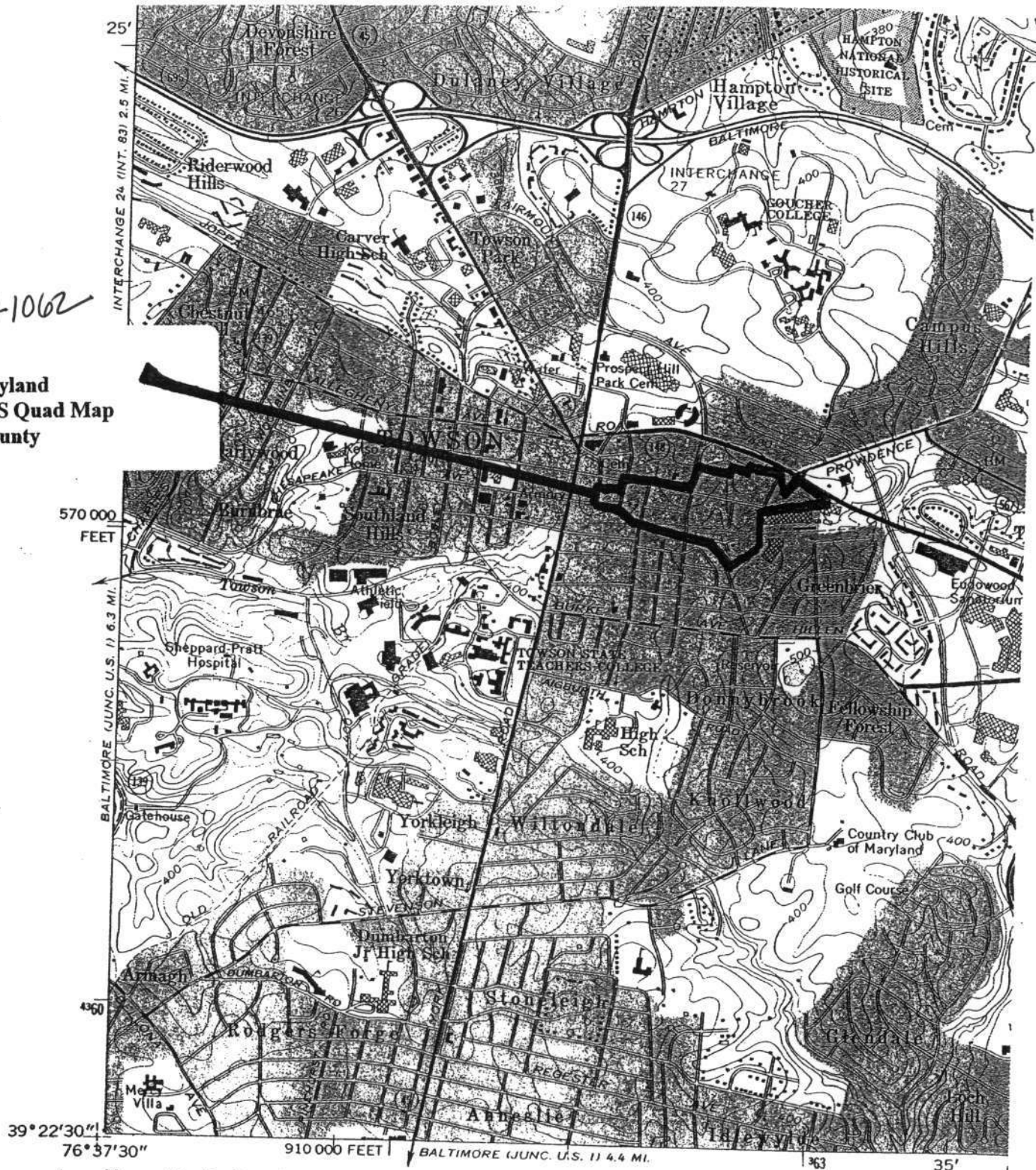
Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Paved Parking / Driveways
- Hydrographic Features
- Buildings
- Vegetation

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum
Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA-1062

**East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County**



BALTIMORE WEST
5562 SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

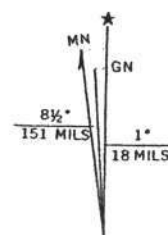
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-1062

HOUSE, 436 EAST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

NORTHWEST CORNER

1 of 3



BA-1062

HOUSE, 436 EAST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

10/2001
MD-SHPD

NORTHEAST CORNER

2 of 3



BA-1062

HOUSE, 436 EAST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

16/2001
MD-SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

3 of 3

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

POWELL HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 436 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☐ ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☒ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Agnus Powell

Telephone #: Va-50377

STREET & NUMBER

owner/occupied

21204

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

BA-1062 - 436 Pennsylvania

pre - 1915

This two-story frame house is three bays wide by one bay deep, with a two bay deep two-story shed-roofed addition across the rear. A porch crosses the north, or street, facade. The main plan of this house consists of a room to either side of a central stair.

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

436 Pa.

This two-story frame house was built before 1915. Its east-west gable roof parallels the street. The house is three bays wide by one bay deep. A two bay deep shed-roofed addition covers the south wall of the house. The porch covering the north, or street, facade has a shed roof supported by square posts. On this facade the east and west bays contain a 1/1 sash window on each floor. The central bay accommodates a door on the first floor and a 2/2 window on the second floor. The east and west gable ends are lit by a window on each floor, including a four-pane attic window. The east and west sides of the addition each contain a door and window on the first floor and one central window on the second.

The floor plan consists of a parlor on either side of a central enclosed stair. A stove flue on either side of the stair heats each parlor. The architraves feature an arched center flanked by double beads.

The house rests on a concrete cellar. White asbestos shingles cover the house. A neat hedge surrounds the lot, which is lightly wooded to the rear.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1062

PERIOD

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house built by the Mack family is the last original house built by Henry Mack. The Mack family lived on what is now half of Black & Decker's parking lot. After land was conveyed by the Macks to Black & Decker the family moved further west, building in the Greater E. Towson community. This house, 436 Pa., was one of the first consturcted before the Mack family moved west to Lennox and Railroad Aves.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock Merry Stinson/architect 7/77

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save E. Towson

DATE

823-8870

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA-1062

Powell House

436 Pa.

northwest

Towson, Md.

Merry Stinson

1977



BA-1062

Powell House

436 Pa. Ave.

Towson, Md.

northeast

Merry Stinson

1977